



HR0361

LRB098 12122 MST 45985 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Constitution provides that the
3 fundamental goal of the people of this State is the educational
4 development of all persons and that the State shall provide for
5 an efficient system of high quality public educational
6 institutions and services; and

7 WHEREAS, It is the intent and policy of the State of
8 Illinois as previously established by the General Assembly to
9 make the individual school in a school district the essential
10 unit for educational governance; and

11 WHEREAS, The Chicago Public School (CPS) system estimates
12 that it will have a budget deficit exceeding \$1 billion for its
13 fiscal year 2014 budget; and

14 WHEREAS, CPS indicates that it needs to close, co-locate,
15 and turnaround underutilized and underperforming schools in an
16 effort to attempt to close the estimated fiscal year 2014
17 budget deficit; and

18 WHEREAS, After providing a preliminary list of 129 schools,
19 and participating in a series of public meetings regarding the
20 schools on the preliminary list, CPS, on March 21, 2013,
21 announced proposed actions involving 114 schools; and

1 WHEREAS, A major factor contributing to the
2 underutilization of CPS schools is the expansion of school
3 capacity; currently CPS has only about 1% fewer students than
4 it did in 1991 but has almost 100 more school facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 50,000 CPS students will be impacted by
6 overall school actions; and

7 WHEREAS, The CPS school closing plan will impact 6,479
8 students with disabilities, each of whom has an Individualized
9 Educational Plan; and

10 WHEREAS, School closings often have profound ramifications
11 for the educational experience of students and the surrounding
12 community, as numerous studies have shown that when a school is
13 closed or negative actions take place, student academic
14 outcomes are negatively impacted, safety concerns are
15 increased as children have to travel farther and through
16 sometimes dangerous territory, and parental and community
17 confidence in the school system is shaken; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we urge the Chicago Public School system to actively engage
21 parents, local school councils, educators, and communities

1 affected by the proposed school actions prior to taking final
2 action on any schools; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Chicago Public Schools system is urged
4 to provide information to families affected by the proposed
5 school actions and to the Illinois General Assembly on cost
6 savings from planned school closings, extra security and safety
7 programs for students, as well as equipment upgrades for
8 "welcoming" schools prior to final action on the school
9 closings issue by the Chicago Board of Education; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 delivered to the City of Chicago School District 299.